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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFESTYLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Change to Send St. Gregory Boys to Holy Family School

TRAVLES R. LANE

An African American resides in the White House. General Motors has suffered bankruptcy. Monday Night Football can no longer be seen on free network television. And come the next school year, single sex education in Chicago will have lost a West Side academic landmark. Adapting to the inexorable march of change that thus far defines the 21st Century, heralded St. Gregory Episcopal School at 2130 S. Central Park Ave., a private faith-based, boys-only elementary school, will close its doors for good at the end of the current academic year.

Counting former Lieutenant Governor candidate and current 9th District Illinois Rep. Art Turner among its alumni, St. Gregory's fate was decided by its board Feb. 5 when those members approved a merger with Holy Family Lutheran School, another North Lawndale faith-based institution.

The decision combines more than 73 years of experience in providing the benefits of high-quality, private education opportunities to low-income minority girls and boys of Chicago's depressed West Side and South Side neighborhoods. Officials of St. Gregory and Holy

Family discussed the repercussions of the decision with the parents of some of the more than 80 K-8th grade boys who are now attending St. Gregory during an open house Thursday (Feb. 11).

Speaking to families from St. Gregory during a pair of evening meetings at the Holy Family school gymnasium at 3415 W. Arthington Street in North Lawndale, officials from both schools also assured the attending parents assistance would be available to offset the substantial tuition increase involved in the transition. St. Gregory's board will subsidize the bulk of the \$1,900 lower tier tuition fees to attend Holy Family that will be paid by the great majority of St. Gregory's parents for at least two years.

"The important thing is that together we will continue to have a lasting impact on the lives of the children of North Lawndale and the surrounding neighborhoods," said St. Gregory principal Father Ken Erickson, who addressed the audience along with Holy Family staff and faculty members. "What we care about most is the mission that we share—that respecting the dignity of every child begins with providing an excellent education."

Holy Family Ministries



President Susan Work added the partnership between the Episcopal

Diocese and the Lutheran Synod "is a win-win situation that adds

See Change page 5

Hip-Hop Artist Goes on a Crusade to Pull People Closer to God

Nicholas Short



With a mic in his hand and God on his side, MacStrongg preaches his sermons through the art of hip-hop. His rhymes offer African Americans not only entertainment, but a chance to give up their destructive lifestyles and choose Christ.

But before he became MacStrongg, the gospel rap artist, he went by only one name: Timothy Jackson. A troubled young man who was born and raised in Chicago,

Jackson was not into gospel rap in the beginning. Though he always loved rap music, it was the negativity he witnessed from in his community and around the world that inspired him to combined hip-hop music with the word of God.

One incident in particular that made him devote his life and music to Christ occurred in the winter of 2003. During that time, Jackson went with three friends as they visited their girlfriends' house. While hanging outside the house, a woman came by asking for drugs. Jackson, who has sold drugs in the past, provided her with the drugs. He was spotted by a few neighborhood men. And these men did not like having other people selling drugs on their turf. Soon, a fight broke out.

Jackson's friends left him alone with the dealers, who pulled out their guns and threatened to kill him. Jackson prayed to God as one of the gunmen searched his pockets. Finding only a dollar from his pockets, the gunmen decided to let him go, warning him that they will kill him if he ever returned to

their block. "After that, I knew it was God telling me it was time to change," he said. That moment was the main reason why he turned to God. He became saved in 2007 at the age of 22 at New Greater Holy Temple (511 W. Levergn).

MacStrongg, knowing that there are many people who refuse to listen to gospel rap, hopes that more people will open their minds and listen to his music. "Maybe if they just took time out to just lend their ear and listen, maybe they'll catch a message in there that'll really open up their eyes to something on a higher level," he said.

Those who do not listen to gospel rap, he said, are so focused on other kinds of music that they never bother to give it a chance. There are even people who listen to gospel who do not want to listen to gospel rap. To him, people who enjoy sitting in church for hours listening to their preacher teach God's word should be able to take some time out of their schedule to witness what gospel rap has to offer. "Gospel rap is basically a

more positive rap than any other music that's out there," he said. "It's still gospel."

The gospel rappers he listens to are The Truth and Navhee, who is "definitely heavy with the lyrics" when it comes to speaking truthfully about the problems in America. He also enjoys Jazz, Blues, slow jams, 80s music, and old school music. His favorite artists range from gospel (Fred Hammond and Shirley Caesar) to secular (KonP, Nas, Jadakiss, and Crucial Conflict). He is not bothered by language that secular hip-hop artists use because, though his main focus is God, he admires them for speaking the truth about the issues of today's society.

He focuses more on old school music because he is not crazy about today's hip-hop artists. "I don't listen to the new generation of rappers 'cause all they rap about is just cars and 'shoot'em up bang bang,' stuff like that." He prefers a more "down to earth" style of hip-hop

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North Lawndale Community News
Winner of the 2005 SBC Beyond the Call Award

North Lawndale Community News
Winner of the 7th Congressional District 2004
Education Champion Award
Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis &
Residents of the 7th Congressional District

NLCN 2010 Focus Youth & Reflection

The North Lawndale Community News has ten years has completed. Much has happened since October of 1999 when we put out our first newsletter. Many have contributed, supported, volunteered, written, taken photos, done research, and/or completed our workshops. We have helped many and many have helped us.

When the North Lawndale Community News began in October of 1999 as the North Lawndale Community News-letter, a focus was established. First, we thanked God for making the newsletter possible. We stated that confidence in the good of the people was the motivating force behind it. Many resources and events are available to us and our neighboring communities and the role of this newspaper is to provide you with that information. Since then, the newsletter has become a newspaper, larger in newsprint size and organizational size.

In 2001, our focus targeted the "Revival of the Family". Many of us were then and are now concerned about the state of the family in our community. We focused on providing helpful and useful suggestions to strengthen and restore vitality to the family unit.

In 2002, we targeted "Wholistic Wellness". Our hope was that everyone in our community join us as we moved in the direction of creating a balanced life in which family, work, recreation, community participation, and spiritual endeavors worked together in harmony.

In 2003, we targeted "Education and Training". As a community, we are dominated by results of low educational levels, high unemployment, a hostile economic environment, and unbearable crime and murder statistics. Still, we pushed forward to improve life in our community on many levels and by many people from within the community, as well as concerned people from outside the community.

In 2004, the North Lawndale Community News focused on helping our community acquire a better quality of life through higher levels of reading and responsible wealth creation.

In 2005, it was Technology, Business Development, and Employment. We chose to include a strong focus on providing information and articles on resources in those areas because there was a growing unemployment rate in North Lawndale and some of its neighboring communities that are among the highest of all the 77 Chicago communities.

In 2006, the primary focus for SHS/ NLCN was Health, Education, and Welfare. Health is essential to a good life. Education is necessary for the pursuit of happiness especially in an economy driven society. Welfare is unavoidable in showing man's humanity (love) toward man.

In 2007, the primary focus for SHS/ NLCN was People and Education. Our history of people is great. People have strived to create progress in our community, raised their families, created businesses, triumphed over adversaries, and worked in the community. All year long NLCN focused on articles related to people and education throughout our newspaper, weblog, and website that serves the Westside of Chicago.

In 2008, the primary focus for Strategic Human Services and the North Lawndale Community News during 2008 was the Church, Financial Literacy, and Technology. There are many problems that face North Lawndale and its neighboring communities. Anyone of them are the most important to any individual when it is his, her, or their biggest battle.

In 2009, the primary focus for SHS/NLCN was HEALTH & THE ECONOMY. One of the major issues of the recent presidential campaign was health care. Health care costs have become an escalating burden for employers and consumers alike. Research has shown that total health spending is reduced when consumers bear more responsibility for their health and the expenses related to it. One of the best ways to increase life expectancy while reducing disability is to encourage a culture of selfcare practices.

In 2010, our primary focus will be to live and reflect on our previous years of focus, as we progress to a better quality of life.

The North Lawndale Community News

The North Lawndale Community News is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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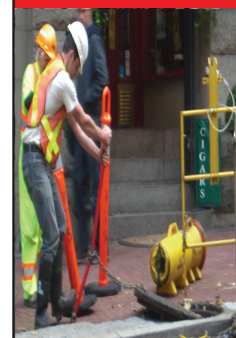
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

February 8, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Let me begin by introducing myself to all of the above recipients of this letter I don't believe any of you will know who I am, my name is Patricia Carpenter, I am a 57 year old wife and mother of two sons and a life time resident of Park Ridge Illinois I am taking the time to write you because of a situation that occurred Wednesday, February 3, 2010, that directly involves the community and lives of the children at the Lawndale Academy in Chicago Illinois.

Last week the Principal for five years was forced into a position of early retirement. Despite strong opposition from the entire Lawndale community, a rally of 250 concerned parents showed up to protest the intention of the school board to close this school. Jeannine Wolf, a former Chicago school teacher from 1969~1981 (including primary education and reading specialist), then an assistant principal, and finally principal of Lawndale Academy, headed the community rally to save her beloved school.

I became involved at the Lawndale Academy because of Jeannine Wolf. She encouraged me to leave my safe suburban home to volunteer in her school. I responded to her passion for the children. Jeannine believed in her whole heart that volunteerism was an integral element in the healthy development of her kids.

When the school desired a basketball team and couldn't raise enough money for uniforms, it was their principal, Jeannine who supplied the much-needed funds. When there were not enough toys at Christmas, it was Jeannine who organized a suburban charity benefit so that each child had a present. I could name countless attributes in defense of Jeanine Wolf, I don't have too, my point in telling this story is not about securing her job, but on the contrary, to hold someone accountable in the Chicago system for the disappointing actions taken towards this amazing person.

Forty-one years of an unblemished career, with not so much as a thank you! This kind of treatment by the Chicago school system hardly encourages are youth to become the future teachers of America, and hardly encourages non-paid volunteers to leave the comforts of home to help the needy and underprivileged kids of America. The loss of this principal is nothing short of a travesty for this community. She will be missed by her peers and Lawndale family for many years. Jeannine Wolf is someone all of Chicago should know and respectfully thank for a job well done.

Patricia Carpenter - 635 Elmore, Park Ridge, IL 60068

ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David H. Schultz

EVERYBODY'S FINE ()** Robert De Niro stars in this Americanized remake to a 1990 movie involving an ill health, recent widower preparing for a family reunion gathering. But when he receives phone cancellations without an explanation. De Niro goes on a cross country odyssey to earn the truth behind each cancellation that involves life changes that were kept hidden such as the Vegas dancer (Drew Barrymore) whose a lesbian; a n estranged son (Sam Rockwell) who isn't the orchestra conductor his father thought he was an a missing son in

a hospital in Mexico., Just an okay film with mild revelations that doesn't have enough drama and depth to warrant DeNiro and cast's efforts.

PG-13; 95min. Miramax Films Home Video

Coming Soon: Disney's first black oriented animated feature, "The Princess and the Frog" arrives March 16... "Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2" gets a combo release, March 23... John Travolta and Robin Williams in "Old Dogs" due March 30.

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What is the Census?

When we all answer the Census, our needs are heard

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years.

The 2010 Census will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

The data collected by the census also help determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

We can't move forward until you mail it back.

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just answer the 10 short questions and then mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a census taker, who will ask you the questions from the form.

The majority of the country will receive English-only materials. Households in areas with high concentrations of Spanish-speaking residents may receive a bilingual (English/Spanish) form.

Any personal data you provide is protected under federal law.

How It Affects the Nation

We Can't Move Forward Until You Mail It Back

That's why it's so important that you fill in the form and promptly mail it back. Census information affects the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. And people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers

and more.

When you do the math, it's easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for your community. Better infrastructure. More services. A brighter tomorrow for everyone.

Participation isn't just important—it's mandatory.

Protecting Your Personal Information
Federal law protects your identity and the information you give us.

We depend on your cooperation and trust, and promise to protect the confidentiality of your information. Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information and violating this law is a crime with severe penalties. In addition, other federal laws, including the Confidential Statistical Efficiency Act and the Privacy Act reinforce these protections.

* Private information is never published
It is against the law to disclose or publish any of the following information:

- Names
- Addresses including GPS coordinates
- Social Security numbers
- Telephone numbers

We Collect Information to Produce Statistics

We use your information to produce statistics. Your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

Sworn for Life to Protect Your Confidentiality

All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data.

Violating the Oath Is a Serious Crime

The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to 5 years, or both.

President Obama Records Message Urging Participation in 2010 Census

President Barack Obama recorded a public service announcement (PSA) encouraging national participation in the 2010 Census that will be distributed

to television and radio stations by the National Association of Broadcasters' Spot Center satellite feed on Friday, Feb. 19, along with a 20-second version of the PSA. Both are available at <http://2010census.gov>

Stations are encouraged to broadcast the PSA through April following their standard procedures appropriate for a national public awareness campaign.

Message from the President of the United States on the 2010 Census
The White House

"Every 10 years, our Constitution requires the federal government to conduct a census. This helps determine your representation in Congress, as well as how federal funds are spent on things like schools and roads, and where businesses decide to put new stores and factories. So when you get your census form in mid-March, take about 10 minutes to answer 10 questions — remembering to include everyone in your household. Because we can't move forward until you mail it back."

ABOUT THE 2010 CENSUS

The 2010 Census is a count of everyone living in the United States and is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. Census data are used to apportion congressional seats to states, to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds to tribal, state and local governments each year and to make decisions about what community services to provide. The 2010 Census form will be one of the shortest in U.S. history, consisting of 10 questions, taking about 10 minutes to complete. Strict confidentiality laws protect the respondents and the information they provide.

Now there are a few different ways to get in on the census momentum. Visit our Twitter page, watch a census YouTube video or get answers to your press-related questions in our Census Press Room at www.2010.census.gov

Change from front page

strength, opportunity and a 2010 perspective to both schools.

"The winners are the children."

The change will mark the end of a nearly half-century era that has seen St. Gregory educate more than 2,000 minority youngsters since its founding in 1962. Boasting a proud history as a flagship Episcopal Diocese elementary school St. Gregory has become synonymous with high academic standards and expectations that prepare graduates for admission to some of the most prestigious and academically rigorous high schools in Chicago.

During last Thursday night's meeting, St. Gregory parents were assured the baton of the school's lofty scholastic reputation would be flawlessly handed off to Holy Family this fall.

Founded in 1985, Holy Family Lutheran School is part of a 45,000 square foot Holy Family Ministries complex that opened in 2008. Designed to ultimately accommodate 340 students through grades K-8th, the coed school has placed 87 percent of its graduates in choice private and public or charter prep high schools since its inception. More than 90 percent of Holy Family graduates have reported enrollment in or graduation from college.

The school complex also houses the ministries' Hope Alive After-School program that provides reading enrichment, homework assistance, tutoring, nutrition and other services and activities to West Side kids and families. A Little Learners Academy pre-school and childcare center for 3-5 year olds and an Adventure in Learning summer camp for six-12 year-olds are also part of the Holy Family total service experience.

And while Erickson, Work and Holy Family principal, Cheryl Collins, expressed a commitment to retain a variety of St. Gregory traditions among Holy Family's in-school and after-school programs next year, there is little they can do to impact the one major change that faces the young men who have attended St. Gregory multiple years.

Next year, the boys will have to deal with a far greater challenge than homework - girls.

Love vs. Lust: Part I in a series on marriage and relationships

Donald Lee

The Lord has placed it in my heart to begin a series of columns centering on marriage and relationships.

With national statistics showing that roughly 50 percent of marriages end in divorce, it is my prayer that this series — with today's message being the first installment — serves as a tool through which God brings restoration into marriages that are on the brink of separation or divorce.

Also, I pray that this series serves to be further confirmation to married couples who are already working the Word and enjoying the fruits of their labor, living a life of bliss together, a result of making Jesus Christ the foundation on which their marriage was built.

Moreover, I pray that this series serves as a blessing to those who are single (or divorced) but need guidance on how to discern when they're in a God-ordained relationship or one that the Lord has absolutely nothing to do with.

And to those persons who have no intentions on getting married or remarried, the principles shared in this series — if adhered to — should help enhance your ability to communicate in other relationships, such as those with your family members, colleagues, neighbors and anyone else you come in contact with.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, a Word from God:

In a message he preached on Dec. 13, 2009, "The Sleeping Giant Awakes," Bishop

op T.D. Jakes, senior pastor at The Potter's House in Dallas, said something so profound that it begs for the attention of every married individual as well as singles who aspire to be married (or married again).

"Love seeks not its own, it's not puffed up, it's not about you, it's not about what you need, it's not about how you're being neglected, it's not about the attention you're not getting," Bishop Jakes said.

"Love seeks to serve somebody else, (it says) 'How can I make things better for you?' 'How can I do things for you?' 'How can I use what I have to make your life better?'" Bishop Jakes said.

"Love is not about you," he said. "Lust is about you. Love is about somebody else. Lust is about 'What can you give me? Give it to me now.' Love is about 'What can I give you? How can I serve you?'"

"And when somebody loves you, it's a ministry," Bishop Jakes said. "They don't even have to say anything ... if you get in the presence of somebody who loves you, it is a ministry. Love is a ministry."

"It's not the chicken soup that made you well," Bishop Jakes said. "It was the loving hands that prepared it."

Pastor Bre Eaton, my 4 a.m. prayer partner who also is an associate pastor at God's Guiding Light Christian Center in southeast Houston, said Bishop Jakes' comments are on point, adding that if people are going to be in meaningful, loving marriages or relationships, there needs to be a clear understand-

ing of the difference between love and lust — selflessness and selfishness.

"A lot of times, when we look at love we only see the surface, like characteristics and traits, instead of actually loving the person," Pastor Bre said. "For example, you can have a person who is a take-charge type of person. And you could look at that (characteristic or trait) and be attracted to that, but the inside (that person's inner spirit), upon getting to know them better, could actually reveal self-centeredness, selfishness, that person's true character."

"Love goes deep. If you look at it, it actually goes from dethroning yourself and it actually elevates the person that you say you love," Pastor Bre said. "You're putting yourself to the side and your attention is focused on the needs of that other person. For example, it says, 'How can I put myself in position to be a blessing to you?' Also, too, when you think of love, it's the largest investment you'll ever make in your life next to stocks and bonds on Wall Street."

"When you compare it to 1st Corinthians 13, the biggest investment God ever made in us was love, according to 1st Corinthians 13 and John 3:16," Pastor Bre said, referring to scriptures dealing with the depths of God's love. "God not only invested His time, but He invested His Spirit, a part of Him. When you think about that, He poured everything into us through love. God's trusted love is the only thing that's fully reliable and dependable. In other words, we have the guarantee



that His love never fails."

Don't be deceived, people. Any marriage in which one person is making far more (emotional or love) withdrawals than deposits is a marriage that is in desperate need of counseling.

And if you're in a courting kind of relationship and one person is in constant "gimme" mode, that's a clear indication that that relationship needs to be dissolved.

Tune in next week as Pastor Bre and I discuss "The Five Deadly Traps of Lust," the second installment in this series on Marriage and Relationships.

The Rev. Donald Lee, a pastor and freelance journalist, can be reached for prayer or comment at (225) 773-2248 or pastordonjlee@yahoo.com. Pastor Bre Eaton can be reached for prayer or comment at kingdomprayers4am@yahoo.com or (832) 228-5790. To join the pastors for 4 a.m. prayer, which is daily, call Pastor Bre, who will connect you into the conference call.

AT THE FLICKS

David H. Schultz, film critic



SHUTTER ISLAND (***/2)

Quickly transporting the viewer in its moody inner world of a horror mystery suspenser opus; "Shutter Island" is a creepy offering from filmmaker Martin Scorsese that puts him into a different realm than what we usually seen. Scorsese is a filmmaker who works his movies on a wide canvas, but "Shutter Island" offers the filmmaker the rare challenge to work the atmosphere and the story from a confined environment — on a remote and barren isle at an inescapable fortress for a prison institution for the criminally insane — the Ashcliff hospital on the Boston Harbor Springs circa 1954.

Where two U.S. Marshals, the seasoned vet Terry Daniels (Leonardo Di Caprio) and his new partner, Chuck Aule (Mark Ruffalo) are sent to by ferry boat to investigate the mysterious disappearance of Rachel Solando, a murderess who savagely killed her three children,

Amidst a disquiet mood and zombie-like inmates; the two investigators' presence is met with limited cooperation from psycho therapist, Dr. Cawley (Ben Kingsley) with questionable methods towards his inmate "patients". One of the many fascinating social issues addressed here, along with legitimate, legal, medical, historical and political issue woven throughout the proceedings.

And there's the eerie presence of his German supervisor, Dr. Naehring (Max Von Sydow) that conjures haunted memories of Daniels' part trauma involving his military years arriving too late to save the family prisoners in a Nazi death camp during the Holocaust.

But soon after Daniels reveals to his partner a dual purpose to their investigation, which is done in periodical flashbacks and haunting imagery of his beloved wife, Dolores (Michelle Williams) in a dress that begins to penetrate in blood; whom he lost in an apartment fire caused by a compulsive arson, Lynch Laeddis (Elias Koteas) somewhere on the prison hospital.

The investigators are given housing arrangement in the most criminally populated of the three buildings known as Ward C. Where the duo are dressed in white outfits that could easily have them mistaken for patients than the mostly black staff workers.

Terry visits Rachel's empty cell, where he find a small piece of paper written "The Law of 4, who is 67". Terry struggles for the right information, knowing that Dr. Cawley and most of his staff are being evasive in not telling the truth.

But throughout the film, Daniels takes on the investigation that includes many warnings

to leave the island (both in dream sequences and from other inmates); endure multiple twists and turns along with a damaging hurricane storm. Daniels discovers the whereabouts of the missing murderess who speaks about a drug and brain surgery procedure that turns inmates into zombie that could be Daniels' fate. But Daniels vows to get the proof and off the island to expose the truth by venturing to the lighthouse

However, the truth becomes strange and strained under Daniels who happens to find deep in Ward C, an informer who wasn't suppose to be there, George Noyce (Jackie Earle Haley) with his own warning to "not trust no one".

"Shutter Island" is the creepiest film in recent years that illuminates on the question of sanity. A compelling, psychological horror drama mindbender

There is so much deception going on through the characters, the settings and mood and even the music that is resembles the kind of textured music score that belong to the late Bernard Herrmann.

Scorsese lays it on thick for a rousing mind game that is constructed by design; to make us wonder by the film's ending what or who to believe. Especially when Terry's partner, Chuck reacts to this personal thought; "What would be worse? To live as a monster or die as a good man".

Martin Scorsese hasn't done a movie that taut and suspenseful since his 1991 remake of "Cape Fear". But Scorsese has grown a little older and wiser from that cinematic experience to avoid making this one into an overblown horror flick.

"Shutter Island" is fascinating as it is terrifying that is a solid level of cinema craftsmanship and the devoted film lover Scorsese is; that is put into this absorbing and disturbed movie that is quite mesmerizing and stylishly suspenseful.

R; 136min. A Paramount Pictures Release — Presented at selected theaters.

BLOOD DONE SIGN MY NAME (*)**
One of the few and small movies being released to coincide with Black History Month; Writer-director Jeb Stuart's "Blood Done Sign My

Name" partly feels like one of those religious group financed mortality dramas and a cross with a Hallmark TV movie, to dramatize a fact based incident that was part of the Civil Rights movement against the Old South mentality in a town without pity or shame..

Set in Oxford North Carolina, circa 1970, Rick Schroder using a thick Southern drawl delivery that makes him sounds like a young Jon Voight in 1974's "Conrack". Schroder portrays Rev. Vernon Tyson who relocates his family for his appointment as the new pastor to an all —White Methodist church in North Carolina.

But it doesn't take long for Rev. Tyson and the youngest of his three children, Tim to discover deeply divided division between the color line is in the community.

When 10 yr old Tim hanging with three local white kids. One of them spots a couple of black kids inside a playground and uses the "N" word to advise them to get out of their play area. The black kids grow in number and chase the white boys.

So Rev. Tyson takes his boys to observe from a distance — a group of men in preparation in a clearing in the woods, which turn out be Klansmen that upsets Tim.

Afterwards, Tim's father visits a noted black professor, Dr. Samuel Proctor that he asks to speak at his all white church congregation that is against the approval of the all white town council. While the end results is more peaceful between the articulate speaker and the congregation.

But this outcome seem to be only a prelude in the film that periodically switches over the mood and later shifts more permanently to Dr. Ben Chavis, (played by Nate Parker, first seen in Denzel Washington's directorial debut, "The Great Debaters") a black native of Oxford who returned as a high school teacher to his hometown that was split and incensed from the racial climate.

An atmosphere that peppered Ben's sensibilities toward his class after having become a civil rights organizer while in college in Charlotte N.C.

See Flicks page 7

LETTER IN RESPONSE TO TRAVLES LANE

COMMENTARY IN JANUARY 28TH EDITION

As a white volunteer that has compassion for others without regard to race, I sincerely ask that this paper clarify that this commentary is only the opinion of Travles Lane and not the opinion of this newspaper. I was very offended that an article titled "Doing What the White People Do Blackens Content of Our Character" was published in this newspaper. It is not a matter of black leaders like Obama and Stroger being afflicted with the disease, "Do Like the White Folk Do Syndrome", where the political mood revolves around race. It is not fair to generalize that all white folks continue to discriminate based on race. In fact, President Clinton, a white president, conducted a review of Affirmative Action in June of 1995 that reenergized the opportunities available for African Americans that even led to some cases of "Reverse Discrimination" against whites. For instance, some white people were denied jobs that they were qualified for based on some companies having an Affirmative Action Policy in place that required a certain amount of African Americans to be hired. Therefore, African Americans are being given job opportunities without regard to race or skin color just like Obama becoming our president. I think it is important for people to focus on how far this country has come with regards to diversity with February being Black History Month instead of continuing to generalize white folks. It would have been more appropriate if the commentary specified "some white folks" continue to discriminate instead of generalizing like this commentary.

The opinions and views expressed by our columnist and writers do not necessarily reflect those of the North Lawndale Community News.

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Artist from front page

that provides a deeper meaning and a more positive message to the Black Community.

When he is on stage, MacStrongg, or Mac for short, strives to send his own positive energy to hundreds—sometimes thousands—of people. He feels "energetic" during a performance. Joy flows through him as he speaks about God to the crowd through his music. "Once you have the crowd's ear and when you're rapping about something, they can feel you," he said.

But he believes that a gospel rap artist cannot teach an audience about God until that artist must give himself—or herself—completely to God. "Get a personal relationship with the Lord first and let him

guide you," he said. "Keep it real with yourself. Keep it real with him." Once a person has become an unshakable soldier for Christ, then that person can work on becoming a gospel rapper. "If it's in you, go for it. Go for your goal," he said.

So far, he has produced four mixed tapes since 2007. Right now he is working on a new one called "Moment of Truth," which he plans to release on March 3. Aside for the new tape, he is still looking for new gigs and opportunities. He is in the process of finding a producer.

MacStrongg has music that can be heard on www.myspace.com/macstrongg and several videos on YouTube (Strongg 028). He can be reached via e-mail at jacksontimothy66@yahoo.com.

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IT'S IN OUR HANDS

FROM SISTAH TO SISTER: BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION: WHAT DO OUR YOUTH KNOW ABOUT THIS MOMENT IN HISTORY?



Tali Bakhit

Brown v. The Board Of Education is a story that seems to only hold great significance in the African American communities during black history month.

Which is a complete chagrin to the struggle that many fought so long for, in order for the equal integration of education to take place nation wide. In fact, many children nation wide don't even know or understand the significance of it's great demeanor to the legacy of America's education system. Brown v. The Board Of Education is the main ingredient to the integration of education and had there not been such a case, perhaps America would still be divide involuntarily.

"Brown v. The Board Of Education must have been one of the most significant moments in history," were the words that came from the mouth and heart of the late Oliver Brown's daughter Cheryl Brown-Henderson who is the founder of the Brown Foundation in Topeka, Kansas. Brown v. The Board Of Education marks a very important time in the history of America. A time that ended segregation in the American public school systems. But what do our youth know about this wonderful moment in time? Do they know and understand the full facts..... the truth?

According to Cheryl Brown-Henderson who's father the case was named after, some of the information that has been placed in the history books of public and private schools nation wide is true, however much of what history tells about this story is not true and the main reason could be because the family's of those who were involved in the actual case were never asked for their input, as the truth,

legacy, history and facts reside within there human walls.

May 17, 1954 is a mile stone in history, the foundation of the civil rights movement. The day that segregation of the education system was re-evaluated by the Supreme Court of the United States and deemed illegal. Making possible the freedom marches held by Martin Luther King Jr. and the bus boycott, where Rosa Parks said "Look, I'm not giving up my seat on this bus because of the color of my skin," as black people were consider to be less than that of a white man and therefore did not have the same equal rights and privileges.

One would think, that the legacy of such a moment in time would be a major part and celebration of the education systems throughout the nation. A set day in history allowing all to recognize it's significance. "This is the reason why the Nation Park Service has opened it's door to such a story" says David Schafer, acting Superintendent and Chief of education and interpretation at the Brown v. Board Of Education National Historic Park site In Topeka, Kansas. Mr. Schafer adds "The site is the place that tells the actual story about Brown v. The Board Of Education," We want people to come and visit the site to feel, see and think about what really happen during the times of segregation." Schools from all over the world come to visit this site every year to try and understand what really happened.

As it has been revealed by Mrs. Cheryl Brown-Henderson, public school teachers, students and historians nation wide public and private school history books don't tell the full story about Brown v. The Board Of Education and black history in general. According to Historian for the Brown v. The Board Of Education Education National Historic Park site Thom RosenBlum, much has been left

out not allowing history to be told correctly. The public school history books give much information about Thurgood Marshall as Mr. Marshall did play a major role in the case, however nothing is mentioned about the African American Lawyers Charles Bledsoe, John and Charles Scott who actually put together the Kansas case. Mrs. Brown-Henderson works very closely with the Brown v. The Board Of Education National Historic Park site and also mentions that the plaintiffs in the actual case never filed suit on their own, opposite to the story that is being told in history books, but it is a fact that Mr. Oliver Brown and 12 other students were recruited by the NAACP, in order to fight against the illegal race relations caused by segregation in our country. The NAACP's role was to equalize the inequalities due to segregation.

The case was named after Mrs. Brown-Henderson's father Mr. Oliver Browns because he was the only male plaintiff. This information is also not given in public or private school history books and with this being the case, children nation wide are learning the incorrect history of one of the most important moments in history. Mrs. Brown-Henderson's goal is to have all of the incorrect information that has been placed in public and private school history books corrected. This is a project that she is currently in the process of executing. In order that the legacy of her father and the Brown v. The Board Of Education legacy is not lost.

Seven years after the case was decided Mr. Oliver Brown died at the age of 42 from a heart attack. He was known as a well spoken Commencement Speaker. The history books note that Mr. Oliver was a welder, which is not true according to Mrs. Brown-Henderson. The history books also note that Mr. Brown

was in the armed forces, however this is another myth, because Mr. Brown had a heart condition, which prohibited him from joining the armed forces. There is so much misinformation given about this case in history books nation wide. If African American youth/All youth are taught a lie about their own history, they will only grow up to teach a lie of untrue legacies. However, if you would like to find out the truth about Brown v. The Board Of Education visit the Brown v. The Board Of Education National Historical Park site in Topeka, Kansas and find out the full truth of it's legacy or just contact Cheryl Brown-Henderson at the Brown Foundation and she'll be happy to assist you by setting the record straight.

For more information about the Brown v. The Board Of Education National Historic Park Site log on

to: <http://www.nps.gov/brvb/index.htm>

For more information about the Brown Foundation log on to: <http://brownvboard.org/foundation/index.php>

Brown v. The Board Of Education National Historic Park site is located at:

1515 SE Monroe Street

Topeka, KS 66612

(785) 354-4273

To contact Cheryl Brown-Henderson call 785-354-4273 To Find Out the Truth!

Tali Bakhit is a visionary journalist, writer, entrepreneur, and owner of her own company Bon-chic Productions. Born and raised in the inner city of Philadelphia, she knows the struggles that young African American sisters go through on the everyday basis. As a writer for the the North Lawndale Community Newspaper, Tali has made a loyal commitment to give back to the Sisters and prove yes we can all get along and create a since of loyalty. Peace & Light My sisters.

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Flicks from page 4

Then a joyous celebration turns tragedy that ignites and tears the town apart. When Ben's cousin, Henry "Dickie" Marrow's return home from active duty in Vietnam. In time to be with his pregnant wife for the birth of their first child;

Soon after "Dickie" gets mistaken for talking to a pregnant white woman. When Henry's cordial comments toward two black women on a porch is in the view of the white pregnant woman who smiles at the comment that her young husband nearby takes offense.

The husband attacks Marrow, swinging at bat. The woman's outcry reaches the ear of the young husband's father, Robert Till, a bigoted grocery store owner who grabs his other younger son and his rifle that he shoots a back bystander who also witnesses the beating and subsequent lone gunshot that kills Marrow.

Unlike most Hollywood made movies that dealt with such real life racial travesties, "Blood Done Sign My Name" is one of the few exceptions that doesn't have the lone White person "saving the day" for the blacks who just look victimized and helpless in most of these films.

The murder leads the black residents to riot, vandalizing and looting the white owned and operated stores and shops. But it was the all white court jury acquittal of the store owner and one of his sons on the murder of the young black man that erupted into racial turmoil.

Enter "out of towners", Golden Frinks who arrives to meet with Ben Chavis to organize a 50 mile peace rally march to the state capital of Raleigh to meet with the Governor.

But what occurs upon their arrival is more important than the

march itself. With Frinks talking up their cause with the gathered news media and speculators along with the marchers. Chavis learns that Frinks never actually contacted the Governor. Frinks explains himself as fulfilling his duty as what was called a "stoker"—the guy that keeps things hot.

However improper Frinks' actions provides the nucleus that led Ben Chavis to have the courage to become a more outspoken activist in the civil right movement that put an emotional dent in North Carolina that eventually led to him becoming national president of the NAACP.

Possibly because of budgetary restraints; Writer-director Jeb Stuart's "Blood Done Sign My Name" is not a film made technically with all the usual dramatic bravado that one might expect.

Still the viewer can quietly be seething along with the black community in the film and insert their emotions in certain key scenes that might seem passé to watch. But I always remind those who think that way, that "the more things the more they stay the same."

The movie also tries to tier up all its loose ends adequately, but the film's unconventional approach is what makes the difference.

Blood Done Sign My Name" sets out to correct the human response during these racially charged times that most Hollywood movies didn't get right that gives this movie its power, insight and importance.

PG-13; 128min. A Paladin Picture Release

Presented at ICE Chatham (87th & Dan Ryan); Ford City 14; City North 14; Showplace 14 (Cicero Ill.); Galewood Crossing Cinemas; Country Club Hills Cinema 16; and Crestwood Cinemas 18

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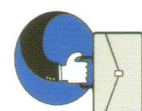
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